

The
Calvary
connection

SPRING 2004
Vol.2, No.1

Published by Calvary Baptist Church

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Pastor's Pen

What Shall I Render?

Psalm 116:12 asks the question, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?" During this Lenten season, that is a good question for us all to ponder. Truly the Lord has been good to us individually and corporately. We have endured struggles and triumphs, challenges and success. We have been abundantly blessed by God and a right response would be to accept the responsibility and purpose for it all.

I believe God is calling us to expand our territory in several ways. With his consistent blessings through the faithfulness of his people, I know we will be able to answer this challenge. And it's all about ministry. Ministry, in its true sense, is to minister to the whole person — spirit,

mind, body and soul. We are excited when someone comes to Christ, but we also want to assist them in living the abundant life beyond Sunday. We want to be the body of Christ that breaks the cycles of temporary fixes, instead of seeking wholeness. I believe God is calling us to expand our territory in several areas to bring about this reality. Therefore, it will take some concerted efforts from us all in our giving of Time, Tithes and Talents.

If you are a part of a ministry now, be faithful to it. Know that whether your ministry is small or large in number, your individual presence is needed to accomplish its purpose. Many of you continue to be available to the needs of the church and for that I thank you immensely. I

thank you as well for your faithfulness in tithes and offerings. With your help, we have increased necessary staff to address the needs of the church and the community. God has allowed us to go beyond these walls and spread his love internationally to Haiti, Jamaica and Africa thus far. We also have some properties in which we are interested to facilitate the growing needs of the church. Here at Calvary, we don't just take money to make money, but we have specific opportunities in mind to give and do more for God's people. And then for those who have special talents, gifts and specializations, if you have not connected to the needs of the church yet, it's time. There is a place for you in building God's kingdom, so join up. If you



don't feel like you're led to a specific ministry just yet, the best way is to try them out. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will guide you through the actual experience of ministry to know whether or not it is the right one for you.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward us? I pray it is a greater commitment to his purpose, so that we may do greater works in his name.

— Rev. Jerry M. Carter, Jr.

• Christian Counsel •

Need Christian advice? We can help. Place your anonymous question in the Calvary Connection mailbox.

Q: Why did people fast in the Bible? Should every Christian fast during Lent? Am I being disobedient if I don't or fail in my attempt?

A: Fasting is a word derived from the Hebrew word "sum or som" which means to abstain from food. The Old Testament fasts usually lasted from sunrise to sunset and were strictly for religious purposes. Common reasons for fasting included: to express grief or mourning (2 Sam. 12:16-22); to seriously appeal

to God in troublesome times (Da. 9: 3-19); or as a sign of honest repentance (2 Kings 21:27).

New Testament fasts were associated with the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days, whereby he ate nothing and was tempted by the devil. Lent is a prayerful time set aside to commemorate this event. During Lent (Ash Wednesday through Easter) some choose to deny themselves for 40 days. The parable of fasting in Matthew 9: 14-17 can infer two thought processes: the absent bridegroom (Christ) would cause a need for fasting or the presence of

the bridegroom would not require fasting, if the indwelling spirit is the presence of Christ.

If one wants to fast, it should be to the glory of God for a specific purpose (see the common reasons stated in the first paragraph). Fasting is given as a tool that can be used for this Christian journey. Jesus doesn't instruct that we must do it, but tells us how to do it, knowing that at times it will be necessary. Therefore, if one chooses not to use this practice, they are not being disobedient.

— Minister Herman Scott

• Calvary Grapevine •

Have a question? We'll get the answer.

Place your anonymous question in the Calvary Connection mailbox.

Q: How does the church assist its members with the loss of a love one?

A: First, contact your sheepfold deacon or deaconess. If you are not able to talk with them personally at the time of your call, then leave a brief message describing your family situation and how they can get in touch with you. If you don't have your sheepfold leaders' information, request it from the church office.

Next, contact the church office (preferably by phone instead of E-mail) and provide them with the same information that you provided to your sheepfold leaders. If you are active in a ministry then you may want to contact that ministry leader or ask your sheepfold leader or the church administrator to do it on your behalf.

It is very important that personal contact be made so the church family can respond appropriately to

your needs and a personal meeting with you can be arranged. If the death or emergency situation occurs out of town and you are not available for a meeting, then leave information on voice mail or E-mail regarding how we might contact you there. The information needed includes: a telephone number where you can be reached; the name, address and telephone numbers of the funeral home and the out of town church to forward our condolences; and in case of sickness, the name, address and telephone number of the hospital. If you do not get a response to your message within 12 hours, then you should follow up with a second call.

Also, if you are aware that a member is sick, hospitalized or has experienced a death or emergency situation within their family, then you should notify the church as soon as possible. This ensures the church has received the information so that appropriate support and follow-up might be initiated.

— Deacon Ivory Herbert

• **Webwatch** •
Attention all upcoming high school graduates and current college students:

www.blackexcel.org/link4/htm

Black Excel has presented gateways to well over 1000 Scholarships for students nationwide. In the Black Excel African American Student's College Guide (available at major bookstores and at Amazon.com), they list hundreds of scholarships and provide a step-by-step tutorial on how to secure these scholarships. Knowing the "rules of play" gives you a tremendous advantage in regard to the A, B, C's of winning scholarships. Note that Black Excel is linked to over 900 web sites, and that many colleges are directing their students to this resource.

You don't want to miss this!
"Brothers in Song , Sing On"

featuring

The Morehouse College Quartet

Wednesday, March 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

sponsored by

Calvary Baptist Church

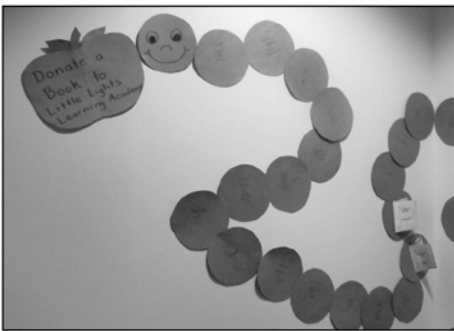
Some say Mel Gibson's **The Passion of The Christ** is too controversial and others say it is the best evangelical tool to date. Recently, our very own Pastor Carter spoke about the movie on the KISS FM Morning Show. We want to know what you think. After you see it, put your anonymous comments in the Calvary Connection mailbox.

Ministry Spotlight

Little Lights Learning Academy: Getting Ready To Shine

After many years of planning and changes in direction, Little Lights Learning Academy is finally coming to fruition. Several locations have been seriously evaluated, but because of financial and technical challenges, municipal bureaucracy, and neighborhood opposition, forward movement was stymied for most of the planning period. However, the Board of Directors was blessed to learn that Rev. Rogers and his C.O.G.I.C. Community Development Corporation (CDC) were interested in partnering with Calvary in a number of areas, including launching this vital daycare center. As manager of the Manahan Village Residents' Center, Rev. Rogers needed programs and tenants, and Little Lights needed space — mutual benefits of selecting this venue became readily apparent.

Following Pastor Carter's vision for focusing on education as a vehicle for cultural and spiritual edification, Little Lights Learning Academy has been established for the purpose of



How can you help? Donate a book. Look for these bookworms around the church for your selection.

developing and nurturing three to five year-old children by offering them a pre-school program that is academi-



The planning team at the February 14 press conference. Little Lights is in The Manahan Village Residents' Center located at 23 Clyde Potts Drive, near the Caldwell Playground (around two blocks from Calvary).

cally enriching, culturally relevant, socially enlightening, and spiritually grounded.

The planning effort has been led by Board President, Carolyn Mims and fellow Board Members Barbara Prater, David Hollowell and Donnyell Bourgeois. Joan Smith, one of the founding Board members has been ill for some time now, and has not actively participated, but has served as a source of continuing inspiration for pursuing project completion. The Board has been helped by a corps of dedicated volunteers, including Samaria Tillman, Thom Jackson, Debbie Alston, Matthette Williams, Marjorie Herbert, Kay McGill, Violet Brown, and Chalyce Bowden — who has been selected to be Head Teacher/Director.

The Board believes that every child should be exposed to a learning environment that will allow that child

to develop to maximum potential. To this end, we believe that the teachers and staff of the Little Lights Learning Academy (LLLA) must strive to (1) ignite the passion for learning for every student; (2) assist each student in acquiring social skills; (3) help each student seek academic excellence; (4) provide each student with moral guidance; (5) give each student a sense of self worth and inner motivation, and; (6) educate all students about the value of their cultural heritage. Through these objectives, LLLA intends to fully prepare each student to succeed in their continuing educational endeavors, and help students excel in meeting the challenges of life. We welcome each of you to join us on this exciting journey of educational development.

— Minister David Hollowell

Youth Achievements

Our very own Ashley Artis, a junior at The Pingry School in Bernards Township, was selected to participate in the 2003 Debutante Leadership Program. The program is offered very other year to outstanding junior and senior girls in central and northern New Jersey.

Ashley was selected as a Debutante based on her scholastic achievements and demonstrated leadership. She has participated in a variety of educational workshops, cultural, community service and social activities. Among her activities was attendance at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Debutante program is designed to foster academic excellence, diversity, teamwork and social responsibility. She is the daughter of Calvary members, Kim and Curt Artis of Bedminster. *"Participating in the Cotillion was very rewarding experience. Managing the schedule was hard. I learned to manage my time because once a week after sports practices I had to head straight to the three hour rehearsals. But I looked forward to rehearsals because even on the toughest day it would cheer me up to know that I'd be with 22 amazing girls. The best part about the whole experience was that while it was fun, it was all for a good cause,"* said Ashley.



Kids Quotes

In celebration of the Lenten Season, we posed the following question to our Primary I (1st and 2nd graders) Sunday School class: "What do you think heaven is like?" We received some very imaginative responses...

- **It doesn't snow there, it has water, a boat, flowers, grass, angels and God is there;**
- **The sky is beige, the ground is silver, all the souls have wings and you get to see Jesus;**

- **Joy is free, happiness is wild and love is spread;**
- **A peaceful place where Jesus blesses you;**
- **Good people live there and angels live with God;**
- **A place where people go when they believe in God and you become an angel;**
- **Angels will be singing and flying around all day. There will be pretty colorful clouds in the sky. The sun will always be shining. The best part is Jesus will be there;**
- **A world of peace;**
- **Where people that die live with Jesus forever ;**

Sounds like a place we should lead everyone to. In the words of the mighty Staples Singers "I'll take you there..."

• Youth Council • By Courtney Tatum

Running Out Of Time?

Does a teenager have time to wait to come to Christ? This topic is widely discussed and debated. Different religions have different answers to this question. As Christians, we believe that if you confess with your mouth, "*Jesus is Lord,*" and believe in your heart that *God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*" (Romans 10:9). Those are the only two conditions for eternal life. For the bible also says in John 3:18, "*whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only son.*"

However, even after answering this question, another arises; what will happen to those who have passed away without being exposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ? The youth in the junior high Sunday school class call this "the man in the crack of the mountain". The man in the crack of the mountain is a man who had never been exposed to any kind of civilization,

including language, religion, etc. What would happen if this man died? Would he be able to go to heaven? Mr. Pooler, the teacher for that Sunday, replied by stressing the fact that the only way to get to heaven is through Jesus Christ. However, the kids just thought that does not seem fair. The Catholics believe in a place called purgatory, which comes from the Latin word "purgare", which means to purify. Purgatory, in accordance with Catholic teaching, is a place or condition of temporal punishment for those who, departing this life in God's grace, are not entirely free from venial faults, or have not fully paid the satisfaction due to their transgressions. However, this is not what we as Baptists believe. So where does the man in the crack of the mountain go? Minister Monica Hooks believes that Jesus will either send someone to minister to the man, or look back over his life and see if he deserves eternal life. I would like to know what you think.

So as we ascertain the answer to this question, let us keep in mind that we must spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and save the lost children. Let us also remember that tomorrow may never come and when it does, it's today (you'll catch that on

A closer look at our new Minister of Music

Bryant Richardson

Bryant K. Richardson, Sr. was born in Newark, New Jersey to Eunice and the late Rev. Clarence Richardson. By the age of three after being taught some chords by his mother, she was not at all surprised when he began to play seriously. His parents knew very early that he had a gift for music.

By the time Bryant was 12 he was playing full time at his father's church, Christian Temple, in Queens, New York. One of his first musical pieces was "Gloria in Excelsis". After hearing the choir director play that particular piece of music Bryant immediately played the song with ease; there was no turning back. Bryant's

gift of sharing his music has allowed him to play for artists such as Yolanda Adams, William Beckton, Hezekiah Walker, and a host of others. In 2000 he was invited to play for the annual Stellar Awards in Atlanta, GA.

As an employee of the Newark Board of Education for 20 years, he enjoys watching children grow to their potential through positive reinforcement and love. Bryant enjoys working with and training children, especially in the areas of music and sports (particularly basketball). He has coached and organized basketball tournaments from New York to New Jersey. He has a deep belief in changing the lives of our children through Jesus.

"As the new Minister of Music, I plan to follow and be in align with the vision of Pastor Carter. To do whatever he would like for me to do pertaining to the music ministry."

Bryant is a graduate of Kean Univer-



sity, and has a License in Audio Engineering. He is recently married to the former Monica Davis, a long-time member of Calvary. His love for the Lord enables him to, write and produce music that he feels will edify the name of Jesus Christ to people from all walks of life.

Member Profile A Satisfied Appetite

By Angela R. Zanders



Chanell Fields was broken-hearted, drained emotionally, fatigued spiritually, depleted financially, exhausted mentally, and desiccated physically when she found herself waking up in a cold, feverish sweat at 3:00 in the morning. She could no longer

live the life she had been living where she had been spinning around on spiritual snacks and starving for daily doses of God's nourishment. As she began to saturate her mind with thoughts of giving up on life, Chanell wondered why God had left her when she needed Him most.

Contemplating whether she would live or die, tiny tears crawled down Chanell's face as she went into an erratic state of delusion. A tear fell for her unhealthy relationship with her "unsaved" boyfriend and all the STD's he had given her. Another tear represented how this boyfriend had tricked her into paying for his on-the-side girlfriend's college tuition. She pondered why God would allow her to neglect her sons and family and cling on to a man who was her stress enforcer.

Chanell reminisced about her former church and how strange it was that her former

pastor didn't believe in the Holy Ghost. She even wondered why God had allowed this same pastor (whom she could talk to about her emotional problems), to die suddenly. As Chanell's tears grew more rapid, she found herself becoming hungrier and hungrier. She craved a spiritual appetizer or a mini meal or even a half-baked meal - just something to satisfy her appetite until she could receive a spoon-feeding of Pastor Carter's sermon. She knew from visiting Calvary on numerous occasions that Pastor Carter would keep her from starving, unlike the many other churches she visited where she walked away famished.

As Pastor Carter's voice crescendoes into Chanell's ears, she heard him talk about the "Selah" sermon, which was derived from the Book of Psalms (46:1-11). She sobbed as she recalled Pastor Carter saying, "God is present; God is

our protector; God is our refuge in retreat mode; and God is our strength." To Chanell's dismay, her cries turned into silent smiles. She lamented her thoughtless acts of suicide. Pastor Carter's voice reigned even clearer in her ears, "Not only is God a present help, He's permanent help!" This was it; this was Chanell's very own Selah moment - her wake-up call. She needed to refocus and regroup.

Later that Day, Chanell found herself at the 11:00 service. She came into Calvary lacking sustenance for a full-course meal. She left out of Calvary a (single) new member whom God had allowed to receive an appetizer, a salad, an entrée and dessert, all in one sitting. Chanell now has a satisfied appetite and whenever she feels the hunger pains of life, she gets into her car and drives 25 miles to Calvary for a guaranteed fullness.

Biblical Perspective

“Do’s” and “Don’ts” of Evangelism

By Minister David A. Hollowell

When presenting the gospel, we should be careful not to force our opinions on others. Our mission is to present the truth, not force others to believe it. Each person has to make his own decision. “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.” You cannot force someone to accept your views. Although your aggressive debating tactics may allow you to win the argument, you have accomplished nothing. A person convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. You cannot force a person to make the right choice.

As we deal with non-Christians, we must keep in mind that until their hearts are ready they will not change. Do not become discouraged when a person’s life does not change when you think it should. It may take a while for the person to see a true need for salvation.

“Sharing the gospel” is more than saying the right words. People have to be receptive before they will take to heart what you are saying. We have to get their attention. This usually involves earning the right to be heard. Many Christians assume a person has “heard” the gospel simply because he has stood politely as a Christian preached at him. When we engage in this interchange, it unfortunately is one-sided: We enjoy talking to others, but we seldom practice true listening. Ironically, the very people we expect to listen to us, are turned off because we do not offer the same courtesy to them.

A good communicator is someone who spends time listening than talking. Showing a person that you are interested in him will open his heart more than polished oratorical skills. When we sense that a person has a

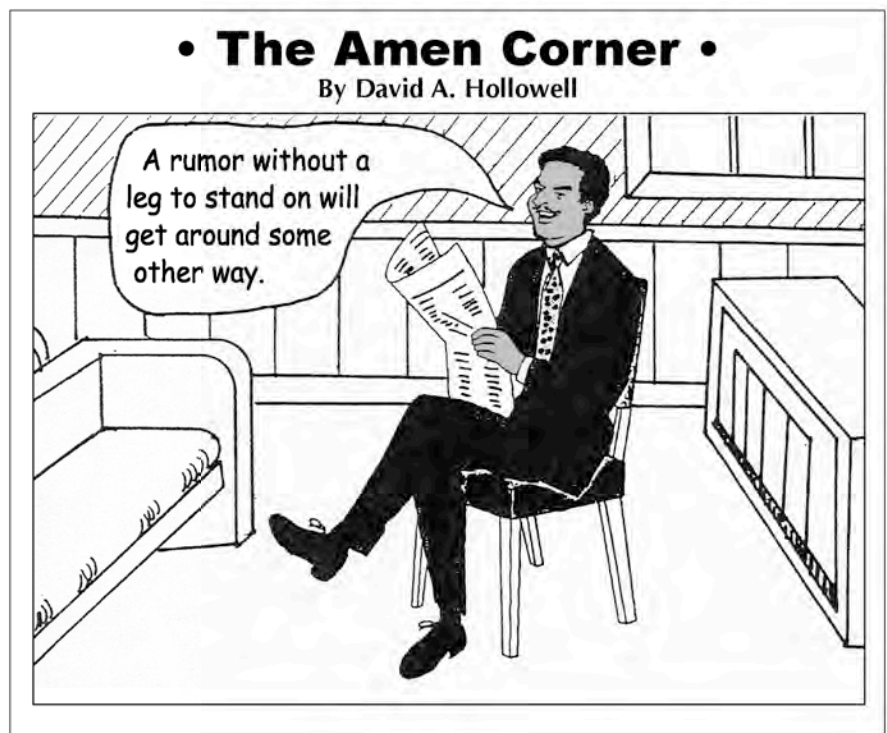
hardened attitude and refuses to respond in a positive way, we usually assume they are rejecting the gospel message, when in actuality, they are rejecting the way it is presented.

We should be aggressive in our witnessing, but never rude or inconsiderate. There are many styles of witnessing and each has its own place. We must realize that some of our approaches actually turn people off to Christianity. Do not assume that just because you have blasted the gospel at someone, you have done God a favor. If your approach turns the person off to the gospel, you are only making it more difficult for the next Christian who wants to share Christ.

It is critical for effective evangelism to use the vehicle of personal friendship to reach unbelievers - not as an end in itself - but as a genuine platform for developing meaningful relationships. Your concern for people must be sincere, otherwise they will view you like the used car salesman

who pretends to be friendly for the sole purpose of selling a car. You must make it a point to ask God to give you a true love for those you meet.

Mental barriers stop the heart from hearing the gospel. Reducing the mental barriers should be a high priority for the Christian. Any approach that causes a person to become defensive is counterproductive. Being argumentative seldom accomplishes anything. No matter what, do not allow the discussion to deteriorate into an emotional debate. The higher the emotions, the less receptive the person becomes. The purpose of your discussion with the non-Christian is not to prove that you are correct, but to present the truth. By allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our words and our attitudes, the truth will emerge, and enable unbelievers to see and respond to the love of God. Remember, we are only the messengers: God is the author and finisher of our faith.



The Calvary Connection (C²) is published quarterly. Submit your ideas and writings to cbcnewsletter@aol.com or put them on a disk and drop it in the C² mailbox.

The next submission deadline is Sunday, May 2.
(Submissions may be edited)

Calvary Baptist Church
Making Disciples of Christ through
Worship, Word, Witness,
and Community (fellowship)



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Sunday Morning

Service: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Service: 11:00 a.m.

Weekly Bible Study

Tuesdays-7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays-noon
Fridays-6:00 p.m.



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